

The Splendors of Italy ...14 Days Tour



September/Early October

**Rome ~ Assisi ~ Loreto ~ Pescara ~San Giovanni Rotondo (Padre Pio) ~ Mount Sant Angelo ~ Naples ~ Capri ~ Pompei ~ Montecassino ~Vatican City
(Pope Francis- if available)**

Day 1: Depart from USA to Rome Fiumicino International Airport

Day 2: Morning arrival estimated at Fiumicino Airport around 9:00am, meet our English speaking tour manager and the bus driver. Because in Italy the hotel check in is around 4:00 pm, this morning we will have a panoramic tour by bus visiting the most popular sites of Rome such as the Church St. Giovanni in Laterano, the Colosseum, the Venice Square and free time for lunch on your own, then to our 4 STAR hotel to relax and our *Welcome Dinner Included*, offered by CDG TOUR.



Day 3: Morning breakfast **included**. Then depart for Assisi, visit the Church of St. Clara and St Francis, lunch on your own. Then to our 4 STAR hotel near Assisi for dinner **included**. Assisi is a hill town in central Italy's Umbria region. It was the birthplace of St. Francis (1181–1226), one of Italy's patron saints. The Basilica of St. Francis is a massive, 2-level church, consecrated in 1253. Its 13th-century frescoes portraying the life of St. Francis have been attributed to Giotto and Cimabue, among others. The crypt houses the saint's stone sarcophagus.

Day 4: Morning breakfast **included**. Then we will participate in a cooking class with lunch **included**, Learn to cook authentic recipes in the birthplace of St. Francis, free time then to our hotel in Perugia and dinner on your own.



Day 5: Morning breakfast **included**. After breakfast we will depart for Loreto, visit the Sanctuary then lunch, **included**, to a typical local restaurant then depart for our 4 STAR hotel near Macerata and Pescara. Dinner on your own. Because of its importance to the town it is useful to have some knowledge of the Holy House of the Virgin Mary. Remember that legend tells us that, in December 1294, the stones of the "house of Nazareth" were transported here by angels in flight. In reality, studies have shown that transport by sea in some ships operated by the Crusaders is a more likely possibility. After the Christians were expelled from the Holy Land by the Muslims the "Holy House" was first transported in Croatia (1291), then to Ancona in 1293 and finally to Loreto in December 1294.

Day 6: Morning breakfast **included**. This morning at 8:30 am and after the breakfast we will depart to visit San Giovanni Rotondo and **Padre Pio**, free time and lunch on your own, then our bus will take us to our 4 STAR hotel in San Giovanni Rotondo, dinner at the hotel or local restaurant, **included**. **About the Shrine at San Giovanni Rotondo:** Padre Pio died in 1968, and then his body was exhumed in 2008, it was found to be in remarkably good condition, although it is not incorrupt. His body is now on display in the tomb inside the Church of Our Lady of Grace (Santa Maria delle Grazie). This church was completed during Padre Pio's lifetime to accommodate the large numbers of pilgrims visiting here. Today there are estimated 7 million pilgrims each year who visit San Giovanni Rotondo.



Day 7: Morning breakfast **included**. After breakfast we will depart to visit **Mount Sant'Angelo**. Lunch in a Typical restaurant then back to our hotel to relax and dinner **included**. This is one of the holiest places in Italy and indeed throughout Christendom, located on the eastern coast of Italy close to Padre Pio's shrine in San Giovanni Rotondo. It has been visited by countless popes and saints: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Saint Bridget of Sweden, at least 7 popes including Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI. Saint Francis of Assisi considered it to be so holy that he would not even enter it.

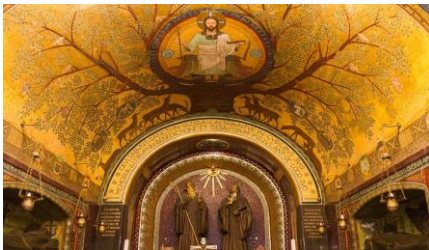


Day 8: Morning breakfast **included**. Departure for the winery Azienda Nardone or similar, for 3 **wine tastings** with lunch, **included**, based on cold cuts and local cheeses and local deserts. Then we will proceed to our 4 STAR hotel near Naples and dinner on your own. Azienda Nardone, Established in 1993, Casa Italia Gourmet Food & Wines is a leading importer and distributor of Italian food and wine.



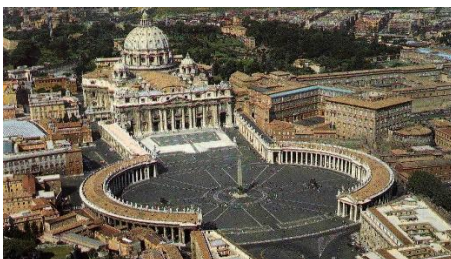
Day 9: Morning breakfast **included**. Today after breakfast we will be visiting the beautiful island of Capri on the **Amalfi Coast**, lunch on your own and free time, at 4:00 pm we will return by **boat** to our hotel in Naples, dinner at the hotel. Capri, an island in Italy's Bay of Naples, is famous for its rugged landscape, upscale hotels and shopping, from designer fashions to limoncello and handmade leather sandals. Dinner at our hotel near Naples.

Day 10: Morning breakfast **included**. Today after breakfast we will depart to visit the Sanctuary of Madonna del Rosario, lunch at a typical Neapolitan Pizzeria **included**, then we will visit the ruins of Pompeii then to our Hotel in Naples, free time and dinner on your own. Pompeii is a city in southern Italy's Campania region overlooked by the active volcano at Vesuvius. It's known for its ancient city, Pompeii, which was buried by the 79 A.D. eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Ruins here include the frescoed Villa of the Mysteries and the city's amphitheater. In town, the Catholic pilgrimage site of the Sanctuary of the Madonna of the Rosary has mosaics and a grand cupola. Hotel near Naples.



Day 11: Morning breakfast **included**. After breakfast we will depart for the Abbazia di Montecassino, then lunch, **included**, at La Selva farm Restaurant is located just minutes from the Cassino motorway exit. Then we will proceed for our 4 STAR hotel in Rome and dinner **included**. The Abbazia was founded by St. Benedict in 529, this abbey has suffered devastation many times but has been magically recreated.

Day 12: Morning breakfast **included**. This morning after breakfast we will depart to attend **Pope Francis AUDIENCE** at St. Peter's Square, **(if available)** then lunch on your own then visit Castel Sant Angelo, the Novana Square the Pantheon, The Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain. Dinner at our hotel **included**.



Day 13: Morning breakfast **included**. After breakfast you have a free day in Rome , lunch on your own, OR, the **option** to visit the Vatican Museums, including the Sistine Chapel, the Museum and St. Peter's Basilica (option with cost) then back to our hotel for a wonderful *Farewell Dinner* , **included**, offered by CDG TOUR.

Day 14: Morning breakfast **included**. Early departure for Rome airport for our flight back to the USA.